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Carlos Alcaraz at the Times Square in New York on Monday | AFP

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YOUNG WORLD: ALCARAZ CLAIMS SLICE OF HISTORY

Spanish teenager (19) Carlos Alcaraz beats Casper Ruud of Norway to win US Open, becomes youngest World No 1 ever

SUCCESS AFTER TOIL, EMULATES LEGENDS

Alcaraz had a gruelling week, spending most time on the court (23 hours & 40 minutes) in a single Grand Slam. He dragged his weary body to a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-3 victory in the final. He became the youngest Grand Slam men's champ since his idol Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open. He is also the youngest champion in New York since Pete Sampras in 1990

MAN OF THE MOMENT AND HERE TO STAY

- With 5 titles in 2022, he is the present. Only man to beat Nadal & Novak Djokovic at the same clay-court event (Madrid in May)
- Ruud said Alcaraz's formidable combination of speed around the court and flexibility in making shots from improbable positions were reminiscent of Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak | P13

FIVE
OF HIS SIX CAREER TITLES HAVE COME THIS YEAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Gyanvapi suit maintainable: Dist judge

Rejects mosque committee's contention, lets lower court hear case

Security beefed up at the Gyanvapi road leading to the controversial mosque in Varanasi to maintain law and order ahead of the court's verdict on Monday | AM

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE sensitive Gyanvapi mosque was back on the front burner after a Varanasi district court on Monday rejected a plea against maintainability of a suit filed by five Hindu women seeking the right to worship Goddess Shringar Gauri and other deities on the mosque premises. The judge allowed a Varanasi court to continue proceedings in the suit.

The plea was filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid (AIM), the management committee of the mosque. AIM later said it would appeal against the order in the Allahabad High Court.

Separately, the Allahabad High Court which was hearing a different case on the temple-mosque dispute, fixed September 28 for its next hearing.

AIM cited three prominent Acts — Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act-1991, The Waqf Act-1995 and Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act-1983 — to challenge the maintainability of the petition. District Judge Dr Ajay Krishna Vishvesha said the suit was maintainable and not barred by any of the three Acts.

He posted the matter in his court for next hearing on September 22 when a written statement would be filed and the issues framed.

Five women — Rakhi Singh, Laxmi Devi, Sita Sahu, Manju Vyas and Rekha Pathak — had filed petitions in 2021, seeking permission for daily worship of the deities. According to the plaintiffs, "they worshipped Maa Sringar Gauri, Lord Hanuman at the disputed place regularly even after 15th August, 1947. Therefore, The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 does not operate as bar," the judge said.

He pointed out that the Hindu plaintiffs were not claiming ownership of the property, nor had they filed the suit to declare the property as a temple.

Besides, the "bar under Section 85 of the Waqf Act does not operate in the present case because the plaintiffs are non-Muslims and strangers to the alleged Waqf created at the disputed property," the 26-page order said.

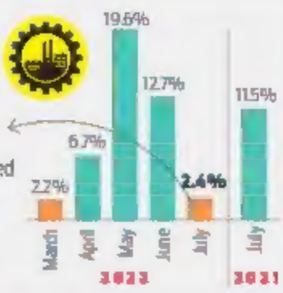
As for the UP Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, the judge said no bar was imposed by it regarding a suit claiming a right to worship idols installed in the endowment within the premises of the temple or outside it.

> **Judge saheb might have not found Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, applicable here but for us the door of upper courts are always open**
>
> Merazuddin Siddiqui, AIM counsel

UTTAR PRADESH POLICE PUT ON HIGH ALERT

The UP government on Monday put its security forces on high alert in all sensitive areas across the state including the old city areas of Lucknow in the wake of the court order in the Gyanvapi mosque case. Patrolling was intensified in sensitive areas across the state. "Religious heads have issued statements asking for peace to be maintained," said Prashant Kumar, additional director general of police (law and order)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DOWN



2.4%
Factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), slipped to a four-month low in July

POOR SHOW BY KEY SECTORS

Manufacturing growth fell to 3.2% in July 2022 from 10.5% a year ago

Mining sector growth plunged to 3.3% from 19.5%

Consumer durables segment grew 2.4% against 19.4%

Power sector expanded by just 3.2% compared with 10.5% in July 2021

Capital goods output, which is a barometer of investments, rose 5.8% in July 2022 against 30.3% growth in year-ago month

> *The sharp jump in food inflation, suggests price pressures remain*
>
> Dharmakirti Joshi, chief economist, CRISIL Ltd

Retail inflation rises again, hits 7% mark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

FIVE days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman claimed inflation was within manageable levels and that it no longer was a 'red lettered' priority, government data released on Monday showed that retail inflation shot up to 7% in August. The spike, according to data by National Statistics Office, was aided by the sharp rise in the prices of cereals (9.6% up year-on-year) and vegetables (13.33%).

Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, had fallen below 7% in July to 6.71%, giving hope that the Reserve Bank of India's aggressive policy stance may have succeeded in reining in the price rise. However, the August numbers indicate that RBI may have to continue its tight monetary policy. This is the eighth consecutive month that inflation has stayed above RBI's higher tolerance level of 6%.

The finance ministry attributed the uptick in August numbers to an adverse base effect and increase in food and fuel prices. The ministry claimed the results of its measures to control inflation, such as ban on exports of food products and rationalisation of tariff structure of industrial raw material, will show results in the coming weeks and months.

Overall food inflation in August saw a sharp increase of 7.6% compared to 6.7% in July. Non-food inflation marginally fell to 6.6% in August from 6.7% in July.

Analysts attribute high cereal prices to wheat inflation after early heat waves hit production. Now, the government predicts lower rice output due to deficient monsoon in rice-growing areas.

"The sharp jump in food inflation suggests price pressures remain," says Dharmakirti Joshi, chief economist, CRISIL Ltd.

BBMP finally acts, razes gates, walls in Mahadevapura

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

UNDER heavy fire over its mismanagement of the unprecedented rain and flooding that created havoc in Bengaluru during the last few weeks, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) swung into action on Monday morning and demolished gates and compound walls of 15 properties, out of the 24 blacklisted, in Mahadevapura zone.

The properties which the BBMP began to bulldoze on Monday belong to middle-class owners. Properties belonging to big builders like Prestige, Epsilon, DivyaSree, and MLA Haris-owned Nalapad group in Mahadevapura Zone were served notices. The demolition drive started at 10 am, following directions from Zonal Commissioner, Dr K V Trilok Chandra.

Surveyors from Revenue Department, White Field Division Police, BBMP Marshals and engineers were deployed to clear encroachments that have come up on storm water drains (SWD). The encroachments have shrunk the width of the SWD, which runs from Chinnappanahalli to Varthuru lake, said Muni Reddy, Executive Engineer of Hoodi Sub-Division.

CONTINUED ON: P2, P4

A woman walks past a demolished building at Mahadevapura zone in Bengaluru on Monday | VINOO KUMAR T

HC for immediate steps to clear buildings on SWDs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Monday directed the State Government and the BBMP to take immediate steps to clear all encroachments on Storm Water Drains (SWDs). The court said the BBMP had failed to perform its statutory duties of clearing encroachments.

The court also directed the state government and the civic body to take steps to ensure prevention of dumping of waste and pollutants into SWDs and submit a status report in this regard on or before the next date of hearing to be held on October 12, 2022. A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty passed the order on a plea filed by activist Geetha Misra who drew the attention of the court by providing photographs which showed the flood situation in the city. P2

NCERT ASKS SCHOOLS TO SET UP MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY PANEL

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

THE National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has directed schools to ensure students' mental wellbeing. The directive comes in the wake of a national survey undertaken by the NCERT, in which students flagged schoolwork, examinations as well as the wait for results as some of major causes of anxiety.

The survey also found that students faced difficulty in online schooling and experienced mood swings, a lack of concentration and peer pressure. Based on the findings, the NCERT released guidelines in a report titled *Early identification and intervention for mental health problems in school-going children and adolescents.*

"Schools are generally seen as spaces where students can grow in a safe and secure environment... It is the school's responsibility to ensure the safety, security, health and well-being of all children in schools and hostels," the guidelines read.

NCERT has asked schools to set up a mental health advisory panel to counsel students. School have also been asked to ensure proper awareness about mental health issues, including introducing mental health programmes that are gender- and age-appropriate.

However, the setting up of a mental health advisory panel in each school recommended on earlier occasions too have failed to achieve the desired results. "While guidelines can be issued, they must be followed by adopting proper policies and arranging funds," said R Vishal, Karnataka Commissioner for Public Instruction.

"School curriculum has been framed in order to ensure mental wellbeing of students, including play learning and Nali Kali methods of learning. However, in terms of addressing mental disorders, schools are ill-equipped. Very few major private schools have school counsellors," the official told this newspaper.

SHOCKING FINDINGS

81% Students worried about studies, exams and results

29% Feel they lack concentration

11% Experience anxiousness

Deal with extreme emotions

28.4% Find it hard to ask questions

43% HAVE MOOD SWINGS

51% Say they have difficulty in learning content online

EXPRESS READ

NIA raids 50 places targeting narco-terrorism nexus

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency on Monday carried out raids at 50 places across three states and in the national capital to dismantle what an official termed as an "emerging nexus" between terrorists, gangsters and drug-smugglers | P9

IIM-Bangalore ranked top business school in India

Bengaluru: Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore has been adjudged the best business school in India in the Financial Times Masters in Management (MiM) Global Rankings 2022, which also rated the institute as the 31st best business school in the world | P2

Wife of Sarabjit, who died in Pakistan jail, killed in accident

Amritsar: The wife of Sarabjit Singh, an Indian national who died in a Pakistan jail in 2013, was killed in a road accident on Monday. Singh's wife Sukhpreet Kaur was a pillion rider on a two-wheeler when she accidentally fell down near Fatehpur, police said. She is survived by two daughters.

GUIDELINES FLOUTED

Lives, dam under threat from quarry blasts in Belagavi

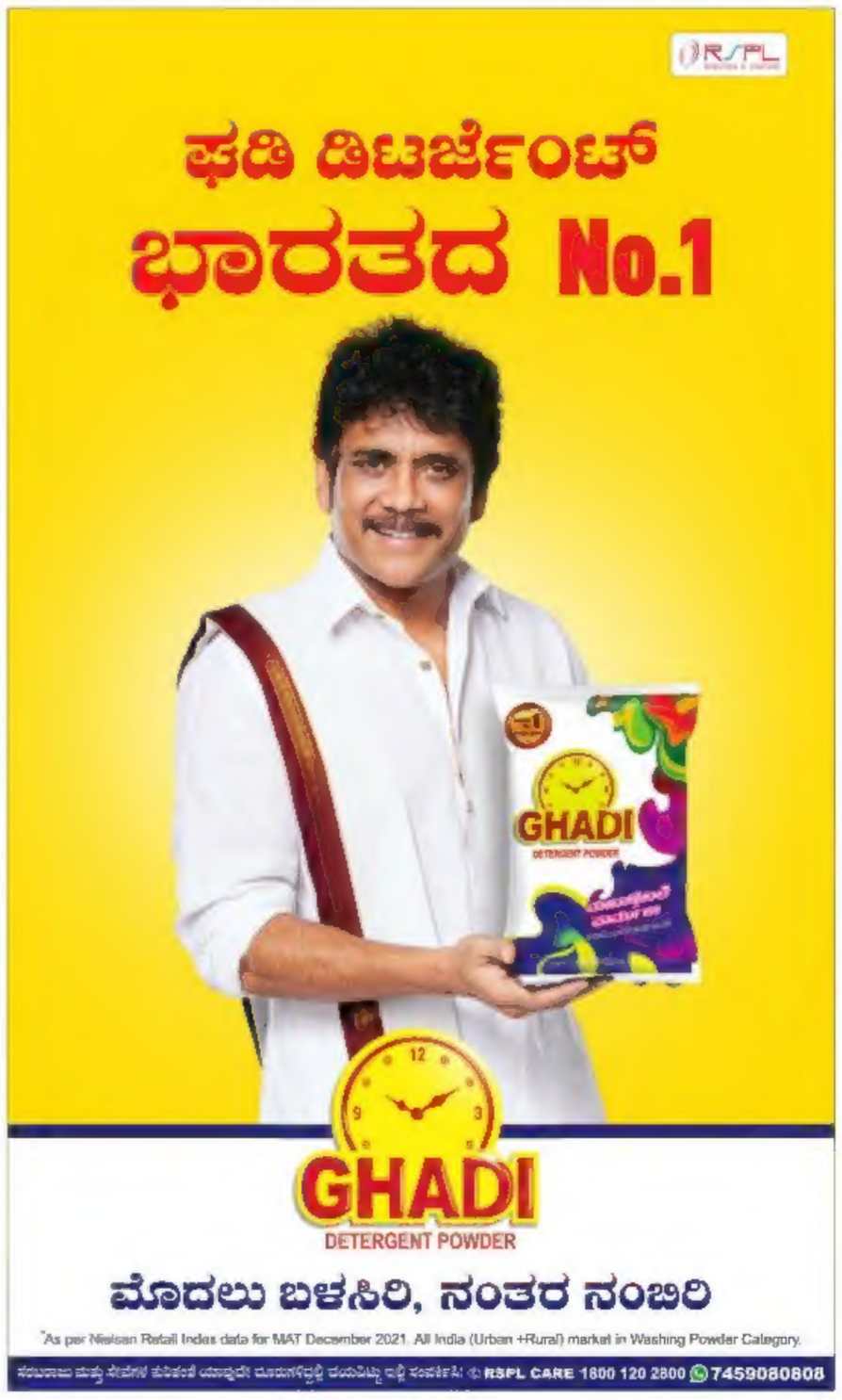
SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

THE gelatin blasts at stone crushing units in Marikatti and Ganikoppa villages of Bailhongal taluk are not only posing threat to the life of villagers and animals but also to the environment and a water reservoir located close by. Walls of many houses near the units have developed cracks due to the impact of the blasts which are allegedly carried out in violation of the guidelines and conditions set by the mines and geology department. The Harinala dam situated between Navalgatti and Tigadi villages near the units is also facing threat.

The Harinala dam in Tigadi village lies within 5-km radius of the land which experiences vibrations due to the blasting activities. The dam, built over 40 years ago, is the source of drinking water to over 20 surrounding villages. Vitthal Talwar, a gram panchayat member of Marikatti village said that Tigadi, Kallur, Sampaon and some other villages situated downstream of the dam are at high risk. Many farmers have stopped farming in the surrounding areas as the stone dust spreads over crops and causes losses to farmers.

A view of the backwaters of the Harinala dam in Belagavi district | EXPRESS

Lokesh Kumar, Deputy Director, Mines and Geology Department, said, "I have come across the violations of terms and guidelines at the stone crushing units. A task force meeting was also held. We have served notices to all 13 stone crushing units at Marikatti and Ganikoppa villages. If they fail to give necessary clarification, the power supply to the units will be snapped," he said.


RSPL
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ಭಾರತದ No.1
GHADI
DETERGENT POWDER
GHADI
DETERGENT POWDER
ಮೊದಲು ಬಳಸಿರಿ, ನಂತರ ನಂಬಿರಿ
*As per Nielsen Retail Index data for MAT December 2021. All India (Urban +Rural) market in Washing Powder Category.
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